

Fairfax County Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)

CECAP Working Group | Transportation and Development Subgroup

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
Held electronically via WebEx and Mural

Fairfax County held a CECAP Working Group meeting on December 2, 2020 from 5:30-8:30pm. The meeting was held electronically via WebEx and included a brainstorming session using Mural, an online whiteboard.

[A recording of this meeting and meeting materials are available online.](#)

These meeting notes capture the general activities conducted and discussions that occurred during the meetings. These notes should be viewed in conjunction with the presentation and meeting materials, found at the link above.

Sign-in & Tech Check (Logan Pfeiffer, ICF)

Logan Pfeiffer from ICF introduced Mural and walked participants through a practice Mural board to familiarize them with the technology.

Legal Requirements/Roll Call (Candace Cronin, ICF)

A script was read to cover several legal requirements for holding electronic meetings. The script included conducting a roll call identifying all CECAP working group members in attendance, where they were attending from, and verifying that they were clearly audible. It was noted that to conduct this meeting electronically, the meeting needs to be clearly audible, publicly accessible, and compelled by emergency circumstances. It was established that this public feedback meeting could not be held in person due to the COVID-19 emergency, and that therefore it could instead be held electronically via audio-conferencing. It was also established that this public feedback session is necessary to move forward the Task Force's functions.

Welcome & Meeting Overview (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting purpose. She also reviewed several WebEx functions that were used throughout the meeting. [See the presentation slides here.](#)

CECAP Process Update (Maya Dhavale, Fairfax)

Maya Dhavale provided an update on where we are in the CECAP process. She noted that we recently wrapped up Task 2 and have moved into Task 3, where we are beginning to look at strategies to meet the goals set in Task 2. The 2040 interim goal and sector goals will be revisited later on under Task 3. She also provided an overview of the project timeline through July 2021. [See presentation slides for more detail.](#)

Review Public Feedback (Maya Dhavale, Fairfax)

Maya Dhavale provided an overview of public feedback received so far, including feedback from the three public meetings, survey responses, and emails. She noted that areas of concern include transit/transportation, energy, development, waste management, and natural resource management, which align with high-emission sectors. Related issues, such as social equity, county operations, and community engagement and education, were also revealed to be of particular importance to the Fairfax County community.

[See the presentation slides here for more detail.](#)

[See the CECAP summary of public survey feedback so far.](#)

Discussion and Q&A (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Question: 2,000 residents is pretty small for such a large metro area. How will the next surveys diversify your population, for example reaching out to renters and non-white females?

- We have two more rounds of planned public engagement outreach, one in February and one in May. We have been in conversation with other Fairfax County colleagues since August, such as the health department, who have had success reaching underrepresented demographics. We are preparing to roll out a more targeted and more strategic outreach in the next two rounds and leveraging partners that do this work very well. Please reach out to us at (cecapoutreach@fairfaxcounty.gov) with any more questions or ideas on our outreach strategies.

Question: What were the demographics of survey respondents?

- Older than average, wealthier than average, majority female. More information on the demographics are [available in the narrative document](#).

Comment: Bringing the pandemic into the conversation is important. Particularly when it comes to public transportation as part of reducing emissions. Public transportation is taking a real hit due to the pandemic (METRO is reducing service, for example). We need to consider this in our planning.

Comment: We need to look at the cost data, and in addition to considering the costs of taking action we need to consider the costs of not taking action.

- There is an impacts section of the Mural Board, and I encourage you to make concerns around costs known there.

Comment: There seems to be a focus on what the State and Federal government can do, rather than on voluntary local actions. I'm concerned what you are basically asking the public to do is get behind political action rather than direct action.

- CECAP is a voluntary plan, and so the action is whatever fits into the specific situation of the individual taking action, but we do plan to give information about the different actions that can be done based on high/medium/low impact and high/medium/low cost. I wouldn't say political advocacy is the only area that can see large results; we do have a number of groups that asked for information on where it could be most impactful at the state or local level so that will be a component of the plan, but we hope there will be a strategy for everyone.

Strategy Discussion Starters (Adam Agalloco, ICF)

Adam reviewed the discussion starter documents that were shared before the meeting. He defined key terms for the discussion, including sector, strategy, action, implementation, impacts, and emerging technologies. He also defined three implementation categories based on what the County has authority to do now, what they might be able to do in the future, and State and Federal measures that support County work. He emphasized the One Fairfax policy and requested that the workgroup members keep the policy in mind throughout the meeting and in their deliberations. Finally, he reviewed the initial list of strategies for consideration. [See the presentation slides here.](#)

Detailed Review of Strategies on Mural Board (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin reviewed how to enter and provide input on the Mural Board. She noted that for those that were not able to participate via Mural, input could be provided using WebEx. [See the Mural Board here.](#)

Question: How is the mural exercise and information collected going to be incorporated into the CECAP planning? Can we really make decisions via sticky notes?

- The feedback will be collected, and the subgroups will be prioritizing and discussing the brainstorming we're doing tonight. Decisions won't be made with sticky notes, but similarly to a working group overview session we want to hear as much as possible from everyone involved.

Comment: For every electric vehicle, there is a power plant somewhere generating electricity to charge it. It's great for local pollution, but you have to consider the impacts of power generation for climate change. You have to look at the net emissions, not just the local impact.

- Your points are really well taken, and electric vehicles need to be in combination with a low carbon grid. Dominion, the dominant electricity provider has plans to move to a very low carbon grid as part of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Even now, the grid is still clean enough that EVs provide climate benefits.

Comment: When working, EVs do not emit criteria air pollutants in the Clean Air Act. For communities near heavily trafficked roads, it will reduce exposure to pollutants and noise. Power plants are point source emitters and are regulated for criteria pollutants. It is important to think about the big picture and the role EVs can play for mitigating climate change and environmental justice.

Comment: EV policies need to go hand in hand with land-use and public transportation policies otherwise the traffic issues will not go away - and this is a major quality (lack of) life issue in the county.

Question: Have we examined the incremental effect of what we plan to do beyond what would be expected by the state government?

- That isn't something that we've done yet, but it is something that we can certainly look at once we have a more complete picture of what is included in Fairfax's plan.

Comment: For assistance with Transportation and Land Use ideas in the county, note that COG provides technical assistance to communities through its [Transportation Land Use Connections Program](#).

Comment: I see COG's [most recent Bike/Ped plan](#) was 2015. I will inquire about whether staff are working on updates.

Comment: A couple more resources for the workgroup to consider. There is a new AEG workgroup this year focused on working with transit agencies on figuring out what levels of investment would be needed to electrify transit buses. I'll share information with ICF and staff as the work progresses.

Comment: Consider the impacts of placemaking: more places for children to gather and play outside leads to social connections and better physical and mental health. It also provides places for older people to gather leading to less isolation and better mental health.

Comment: For walkability, real estate developments need to allow for pedestrians to cut through

Using Mural, the working group brainstormed considerations for three categories, *Technology & Action, Implementation, and Impact (Cost/GHG/Equity)*, for the following energy strategies:

- Strategy 7: Increase Electric Vehicle (EV) Adoption
- Strategy 8a: Support active transportation
- Strategy 8b: Support public transportation
- Strategy 8c: Support efficient land use and transportation demand management (TDM)

[The Mural board is available here.](#)

Wrap Up and Next Steps (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin and Maya Dhavale reviewed the meeting outcomes and next steps, including the following:

- December 2020: BOSEC update
- January 2021: Second round of Working Group sub-group meetings.

Feedback was requested on communications, meeting, and opportunities for participation via the WebEx chat and cecapoutreach@fairfaxcounty.gov. Comments received via WebEx chat are recorded in the WebEx transcript, [available here](#).

Question: Will we consider different topics at January meeting such as waste reduction, etc.?

- Yes, the remaining transportation strategies, waste and forestry will be discussed at the next subgroup meeting in January.